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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Saturday November 6, 1976 CI NIDC 76-260C

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[REDACTED]

National Intelligence Daily Cable for Saturday, November 6, 1976.

[REDACTED] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

25X1

CONTENTS

LEBANON: Situation Report

Page 1

[REDACTED] 25X1

OPEC: Meeting Postponed

Page 3

[REDACTED] 25X6

[REDACTED] 25X1

LEBANON: Situation Report

[] Increased bickering over the command and the intended role of the Arab League security force for Lebanon threatens to blunt its effectiveness. There are continuing signs of Christian resistance to the use of Syrian troops--who will make up the bulk of the force--in a meaningful policing role. 25X1

[] Although Christian radio broadcasts indicate that Phalanges Party leaders are prepared to agree to the stationing of League forces in east Beirut, the more extreme Christian faction led by Camille Shamun apparently still refuses to entertain the notion of having any but Christian forces patrol in Christian areas. 25X1

[] Although Shamun issued an apparently conciliatory statement yesterday following a meeting with President Sarkis, he still insisted that non-Christian troops are needed only where fighting is continuing; he contends that Christian areas are quiet and need no outside policing. 25X1

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[] //Much of Shamun's resistance to deployment of the League force in Christian areas is probably attributable to his growing skepticism that continued reliance on the Syrians is in the Christians' interest. 25X1

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[redacted] President Sarkis' appointment on Thursday of a Lebanese, General al-Haj, as commander of the Arab League force has drawn criticism from several quarters. [redacted]

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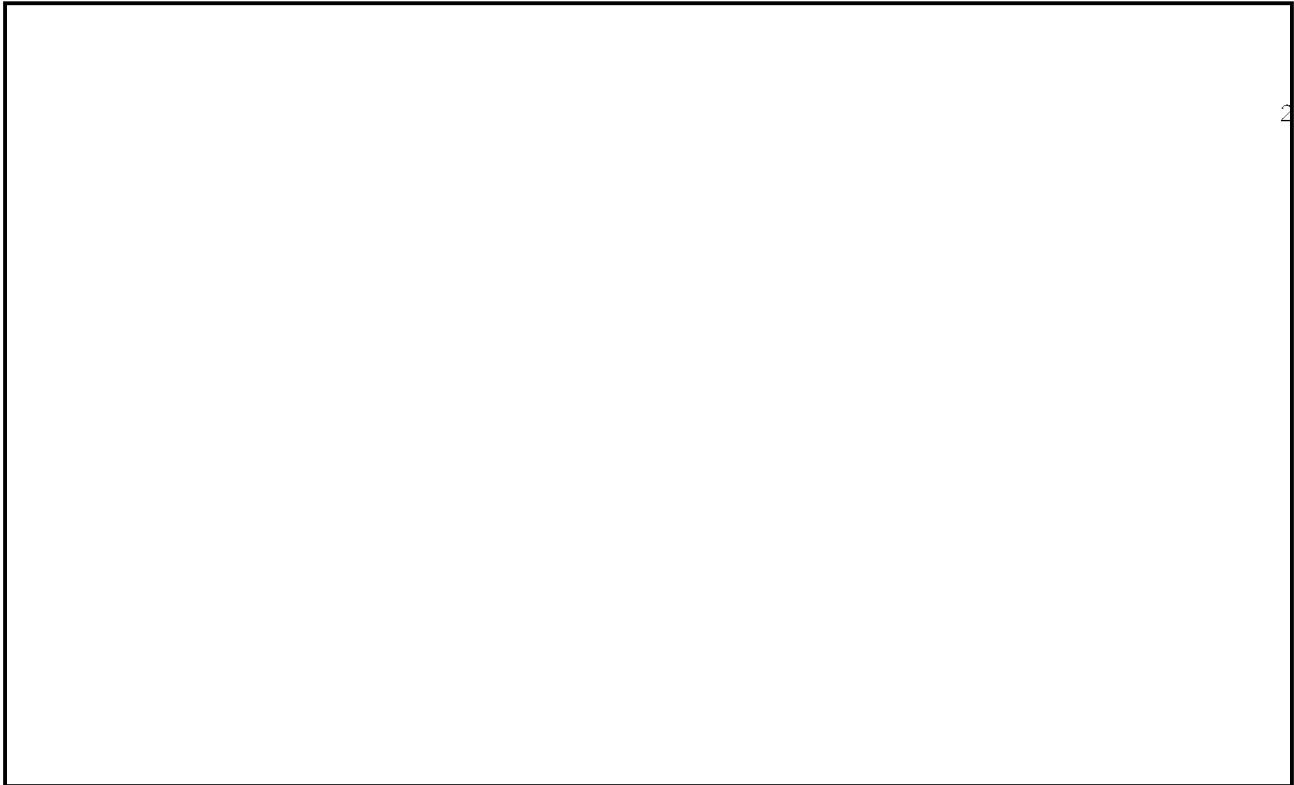
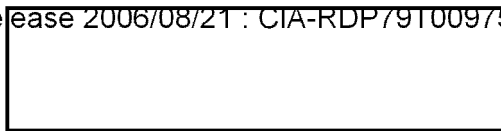
[redacted] The Palestinians have vehemently criticized the selection, claiming that the appointment of any Lebanese violates the Riyadh summit agreement.

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[redacted] In fact, the agreement as published contains no stipulation about the commander's nationality. The Palestinians are no doubt disturbed that the appointment of a Lebanese--he also has two Lebanese deputies--will limit their ability to bring outside Arab pressure on the League force to go easy on the Palestinians.


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OPEC: Meeting Postponed

 Indonesian Minister of Mines Sadli, the chairman of the Conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has confirmed that the OPEC oil ministers meeting to be held in Qatar has been postponed from December 15 to December 20.

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 He indicated that the change is intended to avoid a scheduling conflict with the Conference on International Economic Cooperation ministerial meeting in Paris, set to open on December 15. By delaying the Qatar announcement of an oil price rise, prospects for using the CIEC forum to attack OPEC price policy will be minimized. 

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